



PROTECT EMPLOYEES INCREASE PROFITS IMPROVE SCHEDULING REDUCE RISK LOCAL WEATHER
 TEMPERATURES PRECIPITATION TIMING PAVE MAP LAYERING SNOW REAL-TIME LIGHTNING WIND SPEED 10-DAY OUTLOOKS WARNINGS
 HOURLY FORECASTS ONLINE CONSULTING RADAR MAXIMIZE RESOURCES LOCATION BASED JOB PERFORMANCE CHEMICAL ADDITIVES
 HUMIDITY RAIN SECURE JOB SITES HEAT CUT COSTS

MXVISION WEATHERSENTRY®

CASE STUDY

COMMERCIAL ASPHALT COMPANY

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

One of the largest hot mix asphalt supply-only firms in the country, Commercial Asphalt Co., in St. Paul, Minnesota, manufactures and sells to contractors throughout the Twin Cities area. With plants in 10 Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan locations, the company supplies hot mix asphalt to residential, commercial, and highway heavy markets through the Mn/DOT-certified plant program. The company's work is seasonal, typically running from mid- to late-April through the end of November.

THE CHALLENGE

A DTN/Meteorlogix client since 1998, Commercial Asphalt wanted increased access to weather information. According to Barry Smith, dispatch coordinator, he wanted to be able to access information from home and to provide it to their plants and to the increased number of night and weekend jobs they are encountering.

THE DTN/METEORLOGIX SOLUTION

In spring 2004, Commercial Asphalt added the online version of MxVision WeatherSentry® *Construction Edition*. Before that time, crews working at night and on the weekends relied on information gathered from a TV weather channel or the newspaper.

Up-to-date weather information is crucial to knowing when to move forward on hot mix asphalt. "You really can't lay hot mix where the ground is saturated," said Barry Smith. In addition, knowing when or if bad weather is going to stop during a shift can make a huge difference. "Who wants to stand around in the rain and wait for it to potentially stop?" said Smith.

RESULTS

Both the dispatch office and Commercial Asphalt's Maple Grove plant, their busiest, now have the system online. "Remote accessibility was the biggest factor in adding the new system," said Smith who can now access the system from home. "The plant operator is able to check the forecast himself without me trying to tell him over the telephone what's going to happen. He can actually see for himself if he thinks rain is approaching his area or certain job sites," said Smith. "It's also handy if we have some night work going on when no one is going to be here in the dispatch office."

"It's definitely critical to our operations," said Smith. "A rainy day is a perfect example. When we have rain showers with a break in the rain, our people call to see if the rain showers are



over or if more are coming in an hour or so. If there's a lot of rain heading in our direction, they know it's a wash for the day and their crews can go home."

The service also helps Commercial Asphalt make the most of the breaks in rainy days. "If it's a day where we can tell that rain is going to be stopping and starting, we can send our crews out to do some project maintenance between the showers. We're watching the weather the whole time, so we know what's going to happen."

THE CLIENT'S VIEW

"What I like best about it is that the information is updated so frequently. I also like the precipitation timer. I can put in the coordinates of a particular location and tell the people on the job when it's going to rain and how long it's going to last."

Barry Smith, dispatch coordinator, Commercial Asphalt

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